

Activity:	International Park Affairs
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Program Components	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 CR	FY 2008			Change From FY 2007 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes(+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Office of International Affairs (\$000)	851	846	+30	0	876	+30
International Border Program-Intermountain Region(\$000)	743	711	+31	0	742	+31
International Park Affairs (\$000)	1,594	1,557	+61	0	1,618	+61
<i>Total FTE Requirements</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>
Impact of the CR		[0]		[0]		

Mission Overview

The National Park Service International Park Affairs activity includes the Office of International Affairs and the International Border Program-Intermountain Region. These programs support the National Park Service mission by contributing to two fundamental goals for the National Park Service: 1) Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context; 2) Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs. These NPS goals support the DOI goals to protect the Nation's natural and cultural heritage resources and provide recreation opportunities for America.

Activity Overview

Ever since the designation of Yellowstone as the world's first national park in 1872 (often referred to as "America's Best Idea"), the United States has been looked to for leadership and as a role model in national park management by other countries and the global parks movement. The National Park Service has a long tradition of international engagement, and the Service has either helped create or significantly influenced the development of park systems in nearly every other country in the world. International cooperation is directly related to the NPS mission, and is even included in the Service's Mission Statement ("*The Park Service cooperates with partners...throughout this country and the world*"). In addition to providing other nations with technical assistance, the NPS has learned innovative park management techniques from international cooperation in such diverse fields as interpretation, biodiversity prospecting, invasive species management, and cultural resources preservation techniques.

International collaboration is essential to protecting park resources. Migratory species, including birds, bats, butterflies, salmon and whales, are not constrained by lines on a map, whether park boundaries or international borders, and the only way to ensure that these species continue to return to U.S. parks is to help protect their habitat in protected areas outside the U.S. Likewise, invasive species, wildland fires, and air and water pollution pay no heed to borders and require international collaboration for effective protection of park resources. While the impacts are most directly felt in the over 25 NPS units located on or near international borders, all parks are ultimately connected to and impacted by transnational environmental and ecological phenomena.

The Service, through the **International Park Affairs** activity, coordinates a number of mandated international assistance, exchange and support functions (including treaty obligations) that meaningfully complement the Service's domestic role. These include: support to Regional offices and park units so that they can collaborate effectively with neighboring countries to protect and manage resources shared across international boundaries; development and support of training workshops and technical assistance projects for other nations to aid in the protection and management of their national parks and protected areas; facilitation of the transfer of park and protected area management information and technology

worldwide; and formation of partnerships with Mexico to provide for maximum protection of significant shared natural and cultural resources on the United States/Mexico border.

The International Border Program-Intermountain Region or the **Intermountain Region International Conservation Program** (IMRICO) facilitates international cooperation in the stewardship of natural and cultural resources. IMRICO provides technical assistance to parks to help them understand the structure and function of the foreign governments or other entities with which they will be working; provides guidance about the history, social, cultural and political concerns specific issues may engender across borders; help identify groups or individuals that may make effective partners in addressing resource protection issues. IMRICO also provides technical assistance to the Intermountain Region parks by working with their Mexican and Canadian colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for cultural and natural resources in the border region systems of other countries around the world.

Activity: International Park Affairs
Program Component: Office of International Affairs

Justification of FY 2008 Program Changes

The FY 2008 budget request for the Office of International Affairs program is \$876,000 and 6 FTE, with no program changes from the FY 2007 President's Budget.

Program Overview

In response to both Executive and Legislative directives, the National Park Service works to protect and enhance America's and the world's parks and protected areas through strengthening the management, operation, and preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources and critical habitats. The NPS shares its recognized leadership in natural and cultural heritage resource management worldwide and assists in the attainment of United States foreign policy objectives.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) exchanges technical and scientific information, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and provides technical assistance to other nations and United States territories on park and heritage resource management issues. It also assists in the implementation of international treaty obligations that arise from Legislative mandates and Executive initiatives. OIA coordinates the placement of international volunteers-in-the-parks.

- **World Heritage.** The Office of International Affairs provides staff support to the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks on the World Heritage Convention, a U.S. treaty obligation, which the National Historic Preservation Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to lead and coordinate for the U.S. government. The NPS manages 17 of the 20 World Heritage Sites in the U.S., including Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Parks, and OIA administers the Convention's ongoing reporting and nomination process. In October 2005, the United States was elected to a four-year term on the 21-nation World Heritage Committee which oversees the implementation of the Convention and reviews nominations of new World Heritage Sites.
- **Long-Term Programs.** The Office of International Affairs develops and implements cooperative international agreements to conduct long-term programs for protected areas conservation and resource management with key international partners. Each of these international partner countries will have shared significant experiences and knowledge on protected areas issues that will increase their viability as regional role models for and partners with other nations.

The National Park Service also shares management responsibility for preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources with international park authorities along United States borders with Canada and Mexico as well as with neighboring Russia and the Caribbean Basin. The NPS accomplishes these responsibilities through decentralized activities initiated and funded directly between NPS park units and field offices, and their counterparts across the border.

- **Technical Assistance.** As part of official international agreements with partner park agencies, to strengthen efforts to protect border park resources and to support U.S. foreign policy objectives, the NPS provides technical assistance to the national park systems of other countries around the world. The majority of this assistance is funded with outside financial support, primarily from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. State Department and the World Bank.
- **International Volunteers.** OIA coordinates with NPS field office staff to facilitate training opportunities, in park units, for park and conservation professionals from abroad. This long-standing program is entitled International Volunteers in Parks. Service employees benefit from their direct interaction and exchanges with their international professional colleagues.

- ① Find more information online about the International Affairs Program at www.nps.gov/oia.

FY 2008 Program Performance

With the 2005 election of the United States to a four year term on the World Heritage Committee, the governing body of the World Heritage Convention, OIA will continue to play a very active role in supporting the Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks as the U.S. representative on the Committee. This will include participating in the Committee's 32nd Session as well as on working groups and expert meetings throughout the year. In FY 2008, OIA will also complete the development of a new U.S. tentative list of future U.S. World Heritage nominations and recommend the most qualified American cultural and natural sites to the Secretary of the Interior for a final determination and submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by the State Department. The new tentative list, only the second such list prepared in 25 years, will include approximately 20 properties proposed by willing owners through a comprehensive application process with results vetted by experts, with public input, and developed over a two-year timeframe.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

The International Volunteers in Parks (IVIP) program, managed by the National Park Service Office of International Affairs (OIA), helps the Park Service achieve both its domestic and international missions. The IVIP program places annually over 100 international students and park management professionals in U.S. parks where they receive training in nearly all aspects of park management. The majority of IVIPs go on to careers in park management and conservation in their home countries.

IVIPs make significant contributions to the NPS. As part of their training, they assist the NPS in almost all facets of park management other than law enforcement. They help conduct wildlife research, present interpretive and environmental education programs to visitors and students, design publications, and much more. The direct financial benefits to the Service are also considerable: in FY 2006, IVIPs contributed nearly 60,000 hours of service to the NPS, representing nearly \$1,100,000 in saved costs.

For example, during the summer of 2006, a Mexican biologist, served as a Park Flight intern at Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. There, in addition to gaining experience in a variety of bird monitoring techniques, the biologist made significant contributions to the park's outreach efforts to its neighboring Latino communities. He gave several presentations in Spanish on the importance of migratory bird conservation at various community events outside the park, as well as numerous bilingual bird walks for park visitors. Park staff credit the visiting biologist and Park Flight generally for helping them make great strides in the park's efforts to reach all of their neighboring communities.

The IVIP program is an excellent example of a NPS initiative that provides additional resources to NPS programs at considerable cost savings to the American taxpayer.

In an era of tight budgets, OIA will continue to actively seek and develop partnerships with other Federal agencies, multilateral donor organizations, and NGOs to support NPS international work. Already, the vast majority of international work conducted by NPS employees is funded by outside sources, and OIA will continue to seek partnerships as a key priority.

OIA will continue its work to develop new training programs for international park managers, including potentially a revised International Seminar on National Park Management, along the lines of the highly successful and popular course run by NPS/OIA from the 1960s to 1990s. This course trained and inspired hundreds of park professionals from over 100 nations, and there has been increasing demand for a new version of the course. The successor course, which will be funded by outside sources, is seen as one way of fulfilling pledges made during the campaign for a U.S. seat on the World Heritage Committee to share NPS expertise with counterpart agencies abroad. The 2007 pilot international workshop on public private partnerships conducted in cooperation with IUCN-US and other partners was a successful re-entry by NPS into the international training field.

Where outside funding is available, OIA will continue to develop technical assistance and exchange programs with key partners, including Mexico, Bahamas, Gabon, China, Jordan, Chile, South Africa and other nations. This assistance will include in-country training, study tours in the U.S., participation in the International Volunteers in Parks program, the development of “sister parks” and other initiatives of mutual benefit.

OIA will continue to closely monitor and evaluate NPS international travel, ensuring that such travel is consistent with the NPS mission and Service priorities, is cost-effective, and results in tangible benefits to both the Service's international partners and the NPS itself.

As in previous years, OIA will continue to play an important liaison role between the Service and the international conservation community, including key organizations such as IUCN – the World Conservation Union, to ensure that the NPS keeps abreast of new global developments and issues. OIA will continue, as well, to coordinate official international visitors to the NPS, provide information and assistance to NPS employees on international issues, and serve as NPS liaison with other federal agencies, particularly the State Department, on international park matters.

***French** Environment Ministry researchers shared lessons learned on wolf recolonization/restoration during a wolf survey at Yellowstone NP, Wyoming, Spring 2006.*



*An international volunteer from **South Africa** worked on fire safety awareness programs at Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas.*

Activity: International Park Affairs
Program Component: International Border Program-Intermountain Region

Justification of FY 2008 Program Changes

The FY 2008 budget request for the International Border Program-Intermountain Region program is \$742,000 and 7 FTE, with no program changes from the FY 2007 President's Budget.

Program Overview

The International Border Program-Intermountain Region or the Intermountain Region International Conservation Program (IMRICO) facilitates international cooperation in the stewardship of natural and cultural resources. This is being accomplished through the following activities:

- Providing leadership, coordination, and facilitation of annual "Sister Park" work plan meetings and forums.
- Providing and brokering direct field-based support and expertise to parks to facilitate international cooperation in resource preservation and stewardship.
- Providing professional and grant assistance to parks in working with their Mexican and Canadian colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for cultural and natural resources in the border region.

① Find more information online about the International Affairs Program at www.nps.gov/IMR/IMRICO.

FY 2008 Program Performance

In addition to providing technical assistance for international issues, a total of \$226,939 is designated for park projects as follows:

- \$48,300 to Palo Alto NHS to support a series of assessments, planning workshops, and a bi-national demonstration project. These workshops would identify and support high priority initiatives that enable the general public to physically experience key natural and cultural sites in Mexico and in the surrounding U.S. county that relate to the history of Palo Alto NHS. Each workshop would include training and information exchange on cultural resource management, interpretation and possible trail and interpretive site development and build a foundation of working partners and site stewards for Palo Alto NHS and the related sites.
- \$25,600 to Organ Pipe Cactus NM to support a tri-national natural and cultural public education and outreach program and volunteer opportunities for community involvement and growth. The project will be done in partnership with Parque Nacional Del Gran Desierto Del Pinacate in Mexico (El Pinacate), the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the non-governmental organization, the International Sonoran Desert Alliance. Information on Organ Pipe Cactus NM, El Pinacate, and Tohono O'odham natural and cultural resources would be developed into interpretive displays, brochures, educational materials, teaching aids, and websites for dissemination in the United States and Mexico. Interpretive displays, brochures, and websites would be translated into 3 languages; English, Spanish, and Tohono O'odham. A volunteer base would be established in both the United States and Mexico to educate the public on and help promote the natural and cultural resources of the area through interpretation and assistance with scientific studies. Finally, coordination would occur between the separate entities to exchange information about shared resources, protect threatened and endangered species, promote the importance of pollinator gardens, and encourage natural and cultural preservation.
- \$25,137 to Padre Island NS to continue restoration of endangered Kemps Ridley Sea Turtles. Padre Island NS is collaborating with several entities in the U.S. and Mexico to build upon previous efforts to re-establish this species. The project determines results of previous efforts, documents interchange of individuals between nesting beaches, investigates movements of adult females and males, and conducts other studies and conservation efforts, to gain a global perspective on this species, which does not recognize the boundaries of the two countries.

- \$20,000 to Big Bend NP to provide support Bat Conservation International-Mexico to identify Mexican long-nosed bat colonies and roosting habitats in northern Coahuila, including the Maderas del Carmen and Santa Elena Protected areas. This will complement ongoing efforts by the NPS, Bat Conservation International-US, and Angelo State University to protect and monitor the species in the U.S. The Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*) is a migratory, primarily Mexican species with only one known roost and summering population in the United States. The US Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan for the species indicates it is essential to identify, protect, and monitor roosting sites in Northern Mexico south of Big Bend in order to ensure preservation of the species.
- \$20,000 to Glacier NP to help establish a fishery and water quality baseline in the Transboundary Flathead, in advance of potential coal mining, coal-bed methane extraction, gold mining and further logging. The Transboundary Flathead is a river basin containing the North Fork of the Flathead River which flows out of Canada, into the United States, where it forms the western boundary of Glacier National Park. The project will compliment ongoing work in the U.S. by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) and enhance cooperative efforts between MFWP, the National Park Conservation Association, and the Ktunaxa (too-nah-hah) First Nation of Southeast British Columbia and the B.C. Ministry of the Environment for cooperative management in British Columbia. The goals are to sample selected streams for bull trout redds (spawning nests), electrofish to determine abundance and distribution of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout and other native species, and collect water quality data in sampled habitats. This information will help confirm habitat usage, establish or suggest monitoring and mitigation protocols based on an actual baseline, and enhance cooperative management of shared fisheries.
- \$18,238 to Glacier NP to develop tools to combat invasive species within the transboundary Crown of the Continent Ecosystem (CCE). The CCE is one North America's largest ecologically intact regions (16,158 sq mi; 42,000 sq km). Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park is at its core and encompasses a richly diverse, forested, mountain terrain. Ranging from the Highwood River in Alberta and Elk Valley in British Columbia south to the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex in Montana, the CCE has internationally significant biodiversity. The high diversity results from geographic location, steep terrain, and subsequent contrast in climate with significant influence of both continental and maritime air masses. The Waterton-Glacier area offers a de facto international sanctuary and a corridor for wildlife interaction, migration, and a genetic exchange between the two countries. At least 5 important listed species (grizzly bear, gray wolf, bald eagle, lynx, and bull trout) inhabit this ecosystem. The objective is to create a Crown Invasive Plant Guide, a user-friendly, ecosystem-specific guide to invasive plants across the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. The guide will be aimed at managers with jurisdictions in the CCE and will include cross-border watch species, "look-alikes", and methods for containment and eradication. The guide will be used by field crews and will provide the basis for a broader education and outreach strategy in the Crown.
- \$17,500 to Petroglyph NM to hold a symposium between Mexico and the United States to share ideas related to cultural resources management issues associated with areas that manage, preserve, and protect petroglyphs in the Greater Southwest of the United States and in the northern Mexican States. Funding will also be used for a symposium publication. In addition to providing opportunities for communication with traditional communities and scholars in both the U.S. and Mexico, the symposium will establish and/or reassert relationships with other research and educational entities.
- \$14,987 to the Spanish Colonial Research Center (SPCO) to continue a two-year project to inventory and create analytical calendars of documents and a selected bibliography related to historical missions and to identify Spanish Colonial sites in the U.S. The database can be used for site specific research and cultural resource management needs or comparative histories of missions. SPCO will partner with the University of New Mexico, the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), the Instituto de la Cultural de Chihuahua and NPS sites.
- \$14,000 to Guadalupe Mountains NP to hire 2 Student Conservation Association interns from Mexico. The interns will present environmental education programs and prepare educational materials for community groups, teacher/student workshops and schools both in Mexico and the United States. International partners are the Juarez Schools, the Universidad Tecnológica de Ciudad Juarez and the University of Chihuahua. The interns will translate park brochures into Spanish which provides valuable information about protecting the parks resources and visitor safety information, such as, the hiker safety brochure. A newspaper dealing with environmental issues will be translated to distribute along the border.

- \$11,762 to Glacier NP to survey and restore Whitebark pine. Whitebark pine, a keystone species, is dramatically declining in northwest Montana and southern Alberta and British Columbia. A cost-effective restoration program is needed to maintain healthy whitebark pine ecosystems in the cross-boundary region to benefit the wildlife. To achieve this goal, we will collect seed from apparently rust-resistant trees, raise the seed into seedling tree stock, and plant the trees in selected, appropriate sites within Glacier National Park, MT, Waterton Lakes NP, AB, Akamina-Kishenina Provincial Park, BC, and the Rocky Mountain Forest District, BC.
- \$7,150 to Bandolier NM to continue monitoring migratory birds.
- \$4,265 to Big Bend NP to provide new and updated equipment for the Los Diablos firefighting crews. The Los Diablos firefighting crew programs consists of approximately 40 Mexican National residents living in villages immediately across the river from the park that are trained to US firefighting standards.